

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 AMMAN 00974 171425Z  
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W  
-----171429Z 078626 /41  
O 171350Z FEB 77  
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 628  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T AMMAN 0974

NODIS

CAIRO FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, US, JO, XF  
SUBJ: TALK WITH KING

1. I SAW KING HUSSEIN FOR FIRST TIME SINCE QUEEN'S  
DEATH FOR A CONVERSATION FEBRUARY 17.

2. AFTER I CONVEYED CONDOLENCES ON BEHALF OF THE  
PRESIDENT, YOURSELF AND HIS AMERICAN FRIENDS, HE ASKED  
ME TO PASS ON HIS SINCERE THANKS FOR ALL OF THE  
MESSAGES WHICH HAD BEEN SENT TO HIM. HE SAID HE CON-  
TINUES TO BE SUSTAINED BY ALL OF THE HELP HE HAS  
RECEIVED FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD.

3. HE APPEARED TO WANT TO TALK AND TOLD ME THAT HE  
WAS VERY MUCH LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU. HE KNEW  
IT WAS YOUR FIRST TRIP TO THE AREA AND A FACT FINDING  
AND EXPLORATORY MISSION. THE SITUATION IN THE AREA  
HAD IMPROVED SOMEWHAT BECAUSE THE ARAB LEADERS HAD  
GOTTEN MORE REALISTIC AND LESS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT GENEVA  
AND WHAT COULD HAPPEN THERE.

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4. HE SAID HIS COURT CHIEF CAME BACK FROM CAIRO WITH  
THREE OR FOUR IMPRESSIONS. EGYPT BADLY WANTS AND  
NEEDS AN AGREEMENT ON PEACE. IF GENEVA DOES NOT  
GET STARTED REASONABLY SOON, EGYPT WILL GO TO THE  
UN SECURITY COUNCIL. SADAT WANTS TO INSURE THAT THE  
ARAB STATES CONTINUE TO STAY TOGETHER AND KEEP IN  
CLOSE TOUCH. EGYPT WANTS JORDAN AND THE PLO TO

WORK OUT THE LINKS BETWEEN THEM FOR A FUTURE WEST BANK STATE. THE PLO HOWEVER SHOULD GO TO GENEVA INDEPENDENTLY AND FROM THE BEGINNING.

5. I SAID THAT WE HAD PROVIDED EXTENSIVE BRIEFINGS TO YOU BY CABLE ON HIS ATTITUDE AND ASKED ABOUT ANY RECENT CHANGES. HE SAID WE ARE STILL WHERE WE WERE. THERE ARE CERTAIN CONCERNS OR PRINCIPLES JORDAN ESPOUSES AND WITHIN THE CONFINES OF THOSE CONCERNS, JORDAN WILL MAKE UP ITS MIND WHAT TO DO. BUT IT HAS NOT YET WORKED OUT FIXED AND FINAL DECISIONS. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION, HE NOTED JORDAN WOULD CONSIDER A JOINT DELEGATION WITH THE PLO IF THIS WERE CONSIDERED BY EVERYONE TO BE A VITAL NEED. HE MADE IT CLEAR HE DOES NOT FAVOR SUCH AN APPROACH.

6. ASAD'S VIEWS HAVE NOT CHANGED. ARAFAT TOLD ASAD HE WANTS TO GO TO GENEVA INDEPENDENTLY. THE PLO DIALOGUE HAS NOT BEGUN. KING SEEMS IMPRESSED BY KHALID FAHUM, BUT DOES NOT BELIEVE LATTER HAS ANY CLOUT IN THE PLO OR ENOUGH SUPPORT TO DEVELOP A POSITION ON NEGOTIATIONS OR ASSUME A LEADERSHIP ROLE. HE LAUGHED A LITTLE OVER FACT THAT SOME OF THE FACES IN THE PLO CONDOLENCE DELEGATION HE HAD NOT SEEN SINCE 1970 (JORDANIAN CLASH WITH PLO) AND THAT HE HAD TOLD THEM SO.

7. KING HAS ABANDONED THE CANE WITH WHICH HE WAS WALKING AFTER QUEEN ALIA'S DEATH, IN PART BECAUSE  
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HIS BACK HURT HIM AFTER STANDING SO LONG AND GREETING SO MANY PEOPLE WHO HAD COME TO SEE HIM. IT IS CLEAR THAT HE IS STILL EMOTIONALLY HARD HIT BY HIS LOSS AND THIS WAS APPARENT WHEN WE SPOKE FOR A FEW MINUTES ABOUT HIS TRAGEDY AND THE LATE QUEEN. NEVERTHELESS HE APPEARS TO FIND WORK AN ESCAPE FROM HIS RECENT DIFFICULTIES, A POINT WHICH SEVERAL OF HIS CLOSEST FRIENDS AND RELATIVE HAVE ALSO MADE TO ME IN RECENT DAYS.  
PICKERING

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, NEGOTIATIONS, CAT-B  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
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**Expiration:**  
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**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, PREL, US, JO, XF, IS, PLO, (HUSAYN)  
**To:** STATE SS MULTIPLE  
**Type:** TE  
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